



54th Engineer Battalion

SUPPORTING THE GOAL

by The Battalion Commander

April 2006



Soldiers and Family Members of Task Force Dagger

March 27th, 2006

Almost into our 6th month here in Al Anbar!! Sometimes it feels like time is flying by other times it feels like we have already been here a year. However one thing remains constant and that is the outstanding performance of the Soldiers and Marines of Task Force Dagger in supporting the First Marine Expeditionary Force. This has been a busy month finding IEDs and we should reach our 300th before the end of March. We were finding lots earlier in the month but it has tapered off over the last week so perhaps the enemy is starting to realize that IEDs are not the answer. However, we will continue to be on the streets and highways of Iraq daily continuing our hunt for IEDs and doing our part to make Iraq safer for everyone.

As I am sure everyone knows by now, the Task Force was hit by a rocket back at the beginning of this month that caused a number of casualties. However, all Soldiers wounded are either back to work or are in Bamberg or in the states recovering and we expect all to make a full recovery. I want to thank again the efforts of the Rear Detachment and the FRG's for their outstanding support during this event...this is hard stuff and they did a superb job and all the Soldiers here appreciate your efforts.

I know there are a lot of rumors going around about the future of the Battalion when we return. We are working a plan here and I will discuss more about it in next month's letter. Bottom line is that the battalion will have to deactivate 2 line companies by the fall of 2007 and that HHC and the remaining line company will remain in Bamberg and we will pick up the 535 EN Company which is located in Grafenwohr, as part of the battalion-again, more to follow next month.

With the upcoming deactivations of the 1st Infantry Division Engineer Brigade and the 82nd Engineer Battalion I would like to thank the efforts of COL Watson and LTC O'Connor and their Soldiers in helping us prior to deployment and all their help since we left. Having been a former member of the Blue Babe Battalion for 5 years and the Brigade for 7 years it will be a sad day for me here knowing that those units will no longer be serving in the Army.

As the deployment continues know that your Soldiers here are continuing to make a difference and we do our part every day in trying to make the roads of Al Anbar safer. It's not easy for anyone here or back on the home front but time continues to tick by and each day brings us closer to returning home. Stay safe.

Daggers In!

LTC McGinley

SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND IS THE BATTALION EASTER EGG HUNT! SEE YOU AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AROUND 1:00! MORE INFORMATION INSIDE.

BATTALION COMBINED FRG MEETING THIS MONDAY NIGHT, APRIL 3RD!

Join the Dagger family in Preston Hall at 6pm to view pictures from downrange, find out the latest news about out Dagger family and the wonderful events planned by your Family Readiness Group.

Childcare is available, once again, this is not a child friendly meeting. Children 6 weeks and under and children 12 years and older may attend. All others please take to childcare. Thank you for your cooperation.

Your Battalion Newsletter needs your input. Hails, farewells, births, promotions or anything of interest. Send your information to beachnut244@hotmail.com by the 25th of each month. Oh, don't forget the pictures.

The 947th Engineers

Hello from beautiful Ramadi! The rainy season is finally over and the sand storm season begins. It is getting hotter by the day. I'm writing in CPT Zambo's stead this month due to him having the opportunity to go on leave. One more month down, and this month may have been the busiest yet. All the platoons have settled in and have made Ramadi their home for the remainder of the deployment. We have many soldiers going on leave and many also return.

This past month we have had two new babies, we would like to take this time to welcome to the World, Pierce Allan Godfrey born 21 February 2006 to Carl Godfrey, and Riley Michelle Woodard born 09 March 2006 to Douglas Woodard. Congratulations new parents. SGT Christopher Rowzee will be expecting a new son or daughter any day now. SGT Rowzee just left on leave to be with his wife during child birth. Also SPC Jessier Balafantz and wife are also expecting a child very soon. Good Luck to you.

In terms of operations and missions, everyone has been gainfully employed. Maintenance has made great head way in getting our beat up equipment mission capable, and is starting to get caught up on services. 3rd Platoon, our attachment from Delaware, has logged close to 900 convoy security miles escorting 2nd Platoon out to the job site incident free. 2nd Platoon completed a bypass at the end of February and went strait on doing should repair on a 30 mile long road that is highly traveled by military and civilian traffic. Head quarters have been busy planning, coordinating missions. Head Quarters has really stepped up to the plate and have been filling in as assistant drivers or extra equipment operators. Our communications section has been out standing in making sure each convoy's communication is up and running good.

I would like to take this opportunity to spot light First platoon this month. Below is First Platoon's month at a glance, thanks to SSG Golia, 1st Platoon Public Affair's representative.

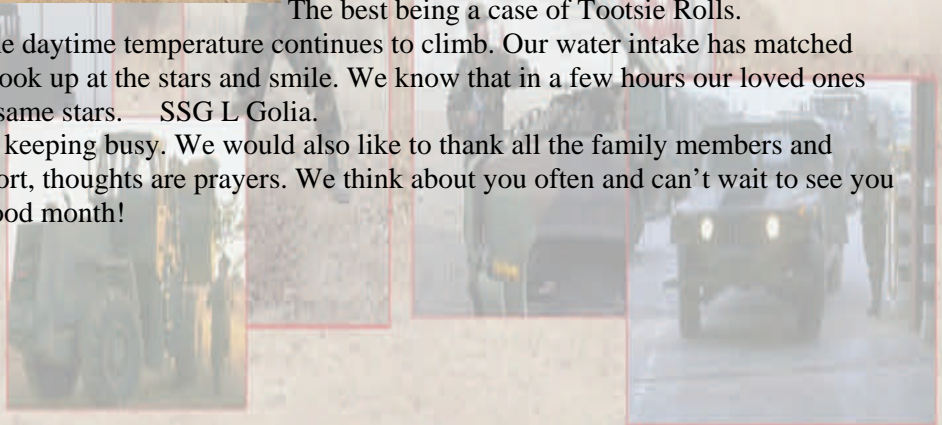
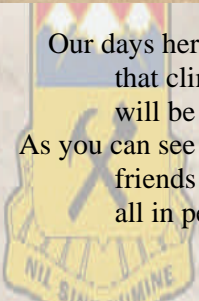
It's been a busy month for 1st platoon. First we would like to announce the arrival of Pearce Allan Godfrey, son of SPC Godfrey, born 21 February 2006. Riley Michelle Woodard, daughter of SPC Woodard, born 9 March 2006. 1st Squad has been busy logging hundreds of man hours maintaining their trucks and trailers. Earlier this month SSG Golia, SGT Franklin and SGT Reichl convoyed to Al Qaim to recover equipment. The whole squad just completed a convoy to LSA Anaconda to drop off equipment and bring "home" some "new" trucks. 1st Squad logged more than 2800 accident free miles this month. 2nd squad has returned from a seven week project in Al Qaim. They have been busy maintaining their equipment and hauling fill for base improvements here in Ramadi. 2nd Squad has logged more than 2400 accident free miles this month. 3rd Squad has completed base improvements for Artillery, Armor and Iraqi Units. An 800ft long utility ditch was also completed. Their crane has completed numerous missions. 3rd Squad has used more than 600 yards of fill this month.

While in COP North LT Read and SSG Golia compiled a list of company's. Company's such as Hershey chocolate, McIlhenny Tabasco, Kodak camera and Milton Bradley were among the list. Letters were sent out asking for products and donations. To date we have received some products. The best being a case of Tootsie Rolls.

Our days here continue on. The daytime temperature continues to climb. Our water intake has matched that climb. At night we look up at the stars and smile. We know that in a few hours our loved ones will be looking at those same stars. — SSG L Golia.

As you can see we are definitely keeping busy. We would also like to thank all the family members and friends for all your support, thoughts are prayers. We think about you often and can't wait to see you all in person. Have a Good month!

Beth L. Soelzer
1LT, EN
947th Engineer Company (CSE)
Executive Officer





CPT Brian Pugh

The snow has finally melted and things are starting to look a lot like spring. We've now made it through the fall and winter seasons and summer will be here before you know it. I hope all of you will take some time to get out and enjoy the outdoors and the many outdoor opportunities around the area. Also, I want to continue to encourage you to take advantage of the activities offered within the community and through the Rear Detachment. In February we completed the Dagger Ski Getaway at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany. Many families attended, and the event was a tremendous way to see some of this beautiful country and relieve some of the stresses the deployment brings. On April 2nd we will hold an Easter Egg Hunt and we are already planning a big event to mark the halfway point of the deployment. The Rear Detachment will continue to plan these events, but remember that there are many other activities sponsored in the community. The Community Activity Center offers affordable, family friendly trips to many popular places, and sometimes something as simple as meeting up with friends to go out to dinner can provide just the break you need.

Our next FRG Meeting is scheduled for the 3rd of April at 1800 in Preston Hall. I also want to remind everyone that we have two alternatives for child care during the meeting. The first option is with CYS. If your children are CYS Registered you can sign up in advance through your FRG leader for free care on the night of the meeting. CYS has highly trained and certified care givers able to take care of all ages. The second option is through the battalion. We are providing Red Cross Certified Baby Sitters for \$2.00 per child at the FRG Room located next to the Battalion's mail room.

I also want to take this time to reiterate the importance of letting the Rear Detachment know when you will leave the area for more than 24 hours. Please stop by and fill out a "day away" form or email Brenda or your Company NCOIC to let us know how long you will be gone and how we can get in contact with you. Further, once you have been out of Germany for more than 30 days your Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) will be reduced to the "without dependents" rate. For most of you this is only a matter of a few dollars and nothing to worry about. Once you return you will need to stop by and drop off an itinerary of your trip showing when you departed and when you returned. Once the Rear Detachment has this information we will adjust your COLA back to the "with dependants" rate effective the day you returned to Germany. If you have further questions please see the Rear Detachment S1.

Finally, I want to reiterate to you that my door is always open and I am never too busy to talk with family and friends of the 54th Engineer Battalion. If you have issues that aren't being resolved through your FRG, Rear Detachment NCO, or the community please call, email, or come and see me. I will assist you in any way possible.

As always, the Rear Detachment team is here for you. If you need help with an issue, answers to a question, or just want to talk to someone contact Brenda, your FRG, Company Representative, SFC Burr, or me. You can reach me via email at brian.pugh@130thengineers.army.mil or DSN 469-7641 (civ. 0951-300-7641). We are all here for you.

Daggers In!!
CPT Pugh



SFC Frances Burr

Soldiers and Families of the 54th,

The Landstuhl Fisher House is truly a Home away from Home for Soldiers and family members that have loved ones being treated at Landstuhl whether it be cancer, combat related (OEF or OIF), or other illness. Fisher House provides these families with a place to stay; providing them with the warmest atmosphere to give them a sense of security. Food and personal hygiene items are donated by various individuals and organizations and are provided to the families free of charge in order to minimize stress and provide some relief and comfort to the families while staying there. The Fisher House has taken care of some of our own families while our Soldiers were hospitalized and being treated at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. I witnessed first hand the warmth, love, and hospitality of the entire staff at Landstuhl Fisher House. Stacy, Bridget, and Kathy are truly the 54th's Soldiers' Angels! In appreciation for all they have done for our families, many of you have donated much needed items to the Landstuhl Fisher House. Thank you to all who have and all who continue to donate. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by the families that stay there. It is through your continued support that our Soldier's families are taken care of. Kaye Nazarko and Sarah Wingard, Thank You for getting the word out. Without your help all this would not have been possible.

Please continue to keep SSG Steffey, SPC Davis, and PFC Witte in your thoughts and prayers as they are continuing their treatment back in the states. Also our Soldiers here, SGT Hulin, PV2 Rhein, SGT Archibald, SPC Miller, SSG Bunce and SPC Major as they continue to recover from their injuries..

Congratulations to SSG Cade, SSG Majka, SSG Brown and SSG Swartz on their selection to SFC!

I would like to welcome our newest "Daggerette" to our family: Rose Mansfield. I would also like to welcome SGT Ronald Camp and family.

This month we farewell SSG Majka and family as they leave for the Warrant Officers Course. Good Luck and God Speed! Also, we farewell CPT and Mary Payant and family. Thank you for all you have done for the 54th! Although you leave us, you will always be a part of our family. You will be missed!

We thank you all for your continued support. And we look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events: Easter Egg Hunt 2 April, Battalion FRG Meeting 3 April, Mid-way Celebration 19 May.

SFC Burr

REMINDER

**Battalion FRG meeting is Monday, April 3rd at
6pm in Preston Hall.**



The Outlaw Update

27 March 2006

Edition 13

Day 146

A short update this time for the Brenda this time (not Kaye) for theater (but who's counting) is flying by, for the busy Soldiers in approaching the half way point and are doing so with courage and honor meeting the daily challenges of operating in Al Anbar province.



battalion monthly newsletter. Thank beating me up on this one. 146 days in evidence that time is passing, even Alpha Company. We are rapidly

At this point of writing the update I got distracted. This happens often here with 1,000 things going on at once. Fortunately I have a minion I can make do things. Introducing my driver, and guest paragraph author, SPC Coster: What can we say about our mechanics? They are some of the hardest working personnel we have in the company. They are usually at work before everyone else and leave after, 24 hour days are always in the back of their mind. They even get called in the middle of the night to come and fix the things that broke while the platoons were out on mission. While doing all the fixing and inspecting of the vehicles, they even go on mission in support of the platoons usually as part of a wrecker or as a separate entity know as "OUTLAW WRENCH", or even supporting as a member of the guard detail. Even before our farm equipment can be looked at by MANTEC (civilian contractors) our mechanics have a look and see if they can fix on the spot or determine what is wrong with them as to make MANTEC's job easier. SSG Shields and crew work as hard as possible to make sure we have all the parts and equipment we need to fix our broken trucks. Most of them work behind the scenes doing stuff that I can only imagine and yet still have the time to make jokes and have a few laughs mostly at the vehicle operator's expense.

Thanks, Coster. I'm sure you'll get laughed at now but I'm sure that comes with being my driver.

That's about it, just some pictures of mechanics in action to follow. Until next time...

CPT Nazarko Outlaw 6

SPC Logue helps install the rear RPG cages on an M113A3 armored personnel carrier. We don't use these vehicles and fortunately are turning 5 of them in.





The Outlaw Update

Edition 13

Page 2



Left to Right: PFC Jackson and PFC Wise carry a section of track, SGT Treumann linkers with something that must be important on the right.

PFC Reed and SGT Sarol work in an uparmored HMMWV door.



PFC Beck works on a heater near maintenance's containers.

LADY OUTLAWS

Hello Alpha Company Family and Friends! I can't believe that March is coming to an end and spring will be in full bloom soon (cross your fingers!). I hope to see everyone out at the Battalion Easter Egg Hunt on the 2nd of April at 1:00pm in Friendship Park. There will be a potluck, an Easter egg hunt for all children and of course the Easter bunny will be making an appearance. If you plan on attending please bring a main dish (for adults or children) for the potluck and some lawn chairs for your family.

Alpha company also has an event planned for the 30th of April for families. We will send out more details as we get closer to the day of the event. And lastly, if there is anything that you or your family needs please feel free to contact Sarah or myself. We are here to help you! Have a great April.

Kaye Nazarko
A Co FRG co-leader

Scrapbooking

**Are you ready for some
fun??**

Join **Jessica Miller** for some
scrapbooking fun on

SUNday the 9th OF APRIL @ 3:00 PM
in the **Yellow Ribbon Room**

DOOR PRIZES

FOOD
and
Drinks

- *All supplies are provided
 - *Bring 3 pictures for your page
 - *Bring a Friend
 - *Sign Up for Classes
 - *Child Care Available at Yellow Ribbon Room
- Please call Jessica Miller @ 0951-209-4881 if you will be attending



Hello from

Update from Ar Ramadi: 23 MAR 06

Camp Ramadi,

Bravo Company has kept busy during the month of March. 1st Platoon has jumped all over their new mission of route clearance, uncovering a cache of over 30 mortar rounds during one of their initial missions. 2nd Platoon continues to confound the enemy in downtown Ar Ramadi, as they cleared close to 20 IEDs this month. 3rd Platoon escorted over 40 trucks from the battalion to LSA Anaconda this week, no easy task but they accomplished the mission in fine fashion. HQ has started rotating personnel for R&R, so they all are chipping in to cover down for each other.

SPC Walton was recently awarded the Army Commendation Medal with Valorous Device by the brigade commander. During an IED attack on 3rd Platoon in December, SPC Walton assisted in saving the lives of two of his injured crewmates.

As many of you are aware, B Co will change commanders at the end of the month. Mary and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you for your support of both the Soldiers and other families within the company. We both have really enjoyed our time serving with such great people! We won't be too far away (I'll be in Baghdad, Mary in Bamberg), so keep in touch. CPT Brian Sawser, his wife Susanne, and their daughter Sophia will be a great addition to the Bulldog team and I know you will welcome them as you did us.

CPT Chris Payant



SPC Walton receives the AR-COM(V) from COL Kula



SPC Corbin, Smithers, Wallace, and Coleman conduct repairs on their vehicle.



PFC Andrews and SGT Peters relax by playing some music on the platoon porch.



LT Fields, 1SG Reilly, and SGT Williams on St Patrick's Day.

Bulldogs Rock the House!

**Bravo Company families' Pot-Luck
Great Time
Great Fun
Great Fellowship
Get Involved—join us at our next event!**





Bravo Company News

April 2006

FRG Volunteers:

- FRG Co-Leaders:
Crystal Fink
0951 299-8939
jcfink@t-online.de

Cherie Reilly
09549 987036
reillycl@hotmail.com
- Treasurer:
Ingrid Espinoza
- Childcare Coordinator:
Megan Moran
- New Welcomes:
Vacant

Bravo Co Rear D:

- SFC Patrick Collins
0951 300-8465
0176 2949-2896

April

Vanessa Apolo 9th

Ingrid Espinoza 21st

Happy Easter Everyone!

By Cherie Reilly
& Crystal Fink

What's Been Going on...

At the end of March Bravo Company changed out Company Commanders. Capt. Brian Sawser will finish out the deployment with Bravo. We welcome his wife, Susanne and baby daughter, Sophia. We look forward to seeing Susanne at our monthly meetings and getting to know Brian in November.

Megan Moran has offered to coordinate the monthly CYS childcare. If you need childcare for any upcoming BN FRG meetings please contact Megan directly at 0951 208-8680.

Thank you Megan!



Other News...

Had a baby in Germany recently?

In August 2005, there were some changes made to the rules of command sponsorship for newborns in Germany. Under the old rules the baby automatically received command sponsorship when they were born (in Germany to Command Sponsored parents). Under the new rules you must request Command Sponsorship for the new child, it is no longer automatic. If you fail to request command sponsorship for the child you will not receive any additional COLA entitlement and the child may not be on the soldier's PCS orders when you are ready to leave Germany. Myth: Enrolling you newborn in DEERS does not give the child Command Sponsorship or increase your COLA.

Contact SFC Collins for more information.

Many of us gathered at the Yellow Ribbon Room on March 16th. The potluck was a big success (when isn't food a success!). We also put together Easter bags for all soldiers in the company. A big thank you to Mr. Andy Wilkins, Bamberg Elementary School Art Teacher, and his students for decorating all 111 bags!! They turned out great! A big

thanks also goes out to everyone who donated goodies to fill the bags, shipping supplies, and manpower: Jen, Marcie, Melinda, Melissa, Kari, Apryll, Lisa, Mary, Erin, Claudia, Megan & Ingrid. Thank you to Marcie for taking such great pictures!

What's Coming Up...

It's time for us to plan out Spring and Summer activities. Got any ideas? We want to hear from you. If you want to bar-b-que, play mini golf, go swimming, let us know and we'll make it an FRG date!



CHARLIE COMPANY

54TH ENGINEER BATTALION (C)(M)

22 March 2006

Ramadi, Iraq

Happy St Patrick's Day! Hello to all the Charlie Company family & friends. We have been very busy over the last month with many missions throughout Western Iraq.

All three line platoons are frequently away from camp- out doing counter-IED missions. We go all over the Province, from the border with Syria to the western outskirts of Baghdad; Charlie Company is racking up the miles. This is difficult and dangerous work, but it is also very rewarding. We are finding lots of IEDs and getting rid of them before the enemy has a chance to blow them up on an American patrol or on innocent civilians.



SPC De Los Rios- Peace Advocate

Headquarters is responsible for planning and tracking missions as well as all the paperwork that naturally comes along with deployments. The maintenance section is busy keeping vehicles and equipment in shape. We tend to break a lot of stuff and the maintainers down in the motor pool are doing a lot of work everyday to keep our equipment running .

The weather has started to warm up a bit and we have had some days with temperatures in the 80's. The rains have stopped and now we get frequent dust storms. They haven't been too bad, more of an annoyance than anything.



SFC Bivins issues instructions to whoever is listening

We are almost halfway through the year already and it seems like time is flying by. We appreciate all your support and faith. Please continue to keep us in your hearts. Thank you again!

Rock Steady!

Rock Six
CPT Brobeck
brobeckbd@gcemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil

Rock Seven
1SG Larner
larnersw@gcemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil

REMINDER! Charlie Company's FRG meeting is Monday night, April 3, after the Battalion meeting —- Preston Hall, 6pm



CHARLIE COMPANY

54TH ENGINEER BATTALION (C)(M)

HELLO CHARLIE COMPANY LADIES!!

ON MARCH 25TH WE HAD A GREAT TIME PUTTING TOGETHER PICTURE FRAMES FOR OUR HUSBANDS AND FATHERS
MAKING CARDS FOR THE SINGLE SOLDIERS, AND OF COURSE EATING!! IT WAS AWSOME!!
THE CHILDREN HAD A LOT OF FUN MAKING A MESS WITH US. WE HAVE A FEW CARDS MADE BUT WE STILL HAVE A FEW MORE TO GO!! IT WAS GREAT TO SEE THE DIFFERENT CREATIVITY THAT WE HAVE IN OUR COMPANY.

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH: JUST FOR LAUGHS:

A TRUE MILITARY WIFE IS SOMEONE WHO:

*WHO CAN PUT EIGHT ROOMS OF FURNITURE INTO A FIVE- BEDROOM APARTMENT

*HAS 20 PAIRS OF DRAPES, NONE OF WHICH FIT THE LIVING ROOM WINDOWS

* CAN EMERGE SANE FROM ONE MOTEL ROOM AFTER SPENDING TWO WEEEEKS OVER CHRISTMAS WITH FOUR KIDS WHO ALL HAVE THE CHICKEN POX.

* CAN IN ONE WEEK TIME, PACK UP A HOUSE FULL OF FURNITURE, PILE FOUR KIDS, TWO DOGS, A CAT, THREE HAMSTERS, A BIRD, AND SIX SUITCASES AND STILL GREAT HER HUSBAND WITH A SMILE.

* DOESN'T EVEN BLINK WHEN SHE GET TO ENGLAND AND FINDS OUT THAT HER HOUSEHOLD GOODS ARE IN JAPAN.

* ALL OF HER KIDS BORN IN DIFFERENT STATES. (SHE GETS EXTRA POINTS FOR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES).

* PULLS OUT HER ID CARD WHEN SHE GOES TO GIANT FOOD STORES.

*FINDS SOMETHING FAINTLY WRONG WHEN SHE SEES THE SAME DOCTOR IN THE HOSPITAL TWO TIMES IN A ROW.

WELL LADIES, IT IS ALMOST SUMMERTIME!! THE SUN IS BEING A LITTLE SHY BUT HOPEFULLY IT WILL COME OUT FOR GOOD. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUMMER ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH US THAT WOULD BE AWSOME!! BRING YOUR IDEAS TO THE NEXT FRG MEETING WHICH IS ON APRIL 3RD.

ROCK STEADY!!

MARIE EVANS



FROM THE COMMADER'S DESK

Dear Family, Friends, and Fans of the Headhunters,

It is said that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. This was certainly true for the Headhunters this year. We began this, the fifth month of our tour, with six of our soldiers being wounded by an enemy rocket and are closing out the month with relative calm.

After the rocket attack, everyone worked diligently to get the impacted area all fixed up again and looking new. Support Platoon soldiers toiled in the sun refilling the earthen barrier that was hit, picking up debris and rebuilding their deck. (The only time that activity ceased was when more news came in about the status of their wounded comrades. They have all been sorely missed this last month.) The deck exceeded anyone's expectations. One can safely say that Support Platoon is enjoying their leisure time in more style than any other platoon in the battalion. They even have flower pots adorning the railings to commemorate the absence of Staff Sergeant John Steffey, Sergeant Heath Hulin, Private First Class Shannon Rhein and Private First Class Crystal Witte.

The Country Western Band Montgomery Gentry was scheduled to show up on March 12th and play a set for the Soldiers and Marines on Camp Ramadi, but bad weather intervened and grounded their helicopter in Kuwait. Some think the band decided not to come because of Ar Ramadi's reputation as a hot spot. Whatever the cause, no one was too let down. There is always plenty of excitement to keep us occupied (and entertained) here anyway.

On March 21st, the battalion moved a 40 vehicle convoy with 90 soldiers to Balad to conduct various logistical operations. It was the largest convoy that the battalion has yet put on the road. It marked a proud moment for Support Platoon which comprised over 25% of the vehicles in the convoy. Everyone performed admirably with no hiccups. It was the greatest possible testament to the proficiency that the platoon has developed in its time spent driving on the hazardous roads of the Al Anbar province.

On March 24th, the Headhunters cleaned their company areas for Spring Cleanup. Each section was assigned a sector for which it was responsible and focused on beautifying its little corner of Iraq here on Camp Ramadi. Each individual soldier also had time off to give a little TLC to his or her room. After hunkering down for the winter, and accumulating lots of mud and dirt, it was sorely needed.

Congratulations goes out to the following soldiers that have been selected for promotion during the month of April: from Private to Private First Class – Shannon Rhein, from Private First Class to Specialist – Elias Espiritu, from Specialist to Sergeant – Fausto Guambana, David Schwedler, and from First Lieutenant to Captain – Andrew Rouchka.

March seemed to be the quickest month we have experienced yet...across the board. We welcome April, in spite of the increasing heat, because it will bring us one more month closer to coming home to our loved ones.

Headhunter 5

The soldiers of Headquarters Company celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a 5 / 10-kilometer fun run – over 60 soldiers from the company participated in it. First place finishers from the company include Private First Class Tiffany Valentin, Specialist Eric Dean for the 5-k Run and Private First Class Leilau Corbaley, Private First Class Kamal Jefferson for the 10-k Run. We also re-enlisted two great soldiers this past week – Specialist Shane Willis and Specialist Joshua Everett. That brings the total for the company to 19 soldiers and \$328,000 in re-enlistment bonuses during our time in Iraq. WOW. The exalted "Airborne Comms" for the Battalion, Staff Sergeant Michael Cade, was selected for promotion to Sergeant First Class. Congratulations. A warm welcome is extended to two new members of the Headhunter team – Private First Class Donald Williams who now works in the fueler section, and Second Lieutenant Kevin Burke, who will spend some time as the assistant operations officer for HHC until he moves to a line company sometime this summer/fall.

Pictures on the following page. Enjoy.



Everette & Hamby Run



Willis Re-enlist



Hollenbeck



Corbaly



HHC
shares

Easter Fun Facts

- In 2000 Americans spent almost \$1.9 billion on Easter Candy. Only \$1.4 billion was spent on Christmas goodies.

- Up to 76% of Americans said you should always eat the ears off chocolate Easter Bunnies first. Ninety million chocolate bunnies are produced each year.

- It took 27 hours to create a Marshmallow Peep in 1953. To-day it only takes six minutes.

- Chocolate eggs were first made for Easter in Europe in the early 1800's.

- Americans usually buy over 700 million Marshmallow Peeps, Marshmallow Bunnies and Marshmallow Eggs. Yellow colored Peeps are the most popular.

- More than 16 billion jelly beans are consumed at Easter. They did not become an Easter tradition until the 1930's.

- If you lined up all the Easter jelly beans they would circle the Earth three times.

- Originally pretzels were associated with Easter, as the twists of the pretzel were thought to look like praying hands.





HHC WELCOMES SPRING!



Is it true? Can we really start to put away snow shovels, ice scrapers and sleds? Ah, Spring! That time of the year when we can start planning out our flower beds, hauling out bicycles and lawn chairs, throwing open our curtains and windows for fresh, clean Spring air! Oh, I didn't realize how dirty my windows had gotten over the Winter. Hey, I guess that's why it's called *Spring* Cleaning, huh? And I should wash these curtains too. Now that the sun is shining in I can see everything better... Ohmigod, how did all that dust get on the TV screen? Look at all those little fingerprints on my china cabinet! Hey, I know Easter is coming up but that's no reason why I should be seeing a dust bunny over by the bookcase. I just vacuumed there! OK, no stress, I'll just move the bookcase out of the way and mop the whole floor. I should probably go through all the books first though and start pulling out the ones I don't want anymore and make a Thrift Store pile...like the pile I've got in the basement right now. The pile that's blocking the space to put the sleds and skis in. The sleds and skis that still need cleaning. And I've still got to dig out the galoshes and heavy rain coats from last year. I think they're in the basement next to the lawn furniture. If I bring the patio table up to the living room I should have space to put the snow shovels back down there too. But then I won't have room to move the furniture around to clean the whole carpet...Hmm, maybe I'll just keep the curtains closed this Spring...and wait in the dark until Winter comes back.

HHC

LADIES NIGHT OUT!

In April let the HHC FRG treat you to an evening of fine dining, great conversation and a chance to get together and remind ourselves why our company is better than the other companies in the battalion (heh, heh, heh!). Stay tuned for date and time and get your appetite ready! (* Requests for child care for that night are being looked into *)



Battalion News

SCHEDULED VTC

Ladies,

We have a scheduled VTC on April 22 & 23. It is up to your husband to sign up for it downrange. So, if you need to, email him and remind him to sign up!

Brenda

Check out the Bookclub info on the 54th Website for more details – we would love to welcome you at our next meeting ... the more, the merrier!

The next bookclub meeting will be in April 26 at Frances Burr house.

Grunes Tal 8

Unterbendorf

For directions, call Frances

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

BATTALION EGG HUNT

Elementary School

DAY: SUNDAY APRIL 2ND

TIME: 1 P.M.

IT WILL BE A POT-LUCK:

A - MAIN DISH

B - SIDES

C - DRINKS/ICE

HHC - MAIN DISH

54th History

Bridge 1954

By Lincoln Drake

In October 1953 the Battalion moved to Fliegerhorst Kaserne, Leipheim, Germany, and on 5 June 1953 was designated the 54th Engineer Battalion (Combat). On 3 May 1954 the Battalion with the attached 93rd Engineer Company (Float Bridge) demonstrated the use and capabilities of the class 60 floating Bridge at the Gunzburg Bridge Training Site on the Donau River. Numerous high ranking officers were present for the demonstration including British General Sir Richard Gale, CINC, NORTHAG, General William H. Hoge, CINC, USAREUR, and Lt General A.C. McAuliffe, Commander, Seventh Army. In 1956 the 54th Engineer Battalion assisted in the construction of the Hohenfels ring road at the Hohenfels training area.

Photo 1. Gungburg, Germany

Photo 2. Danube at Gungburg

Photo 3. My Dad (MAJ Lincoln C. Drake, Bn XO) , LTC Craig Cannon (?) Bn CO, COL Morrison, COL Lynn

Photo 4. GEN Hodes (steam table), GEN Booth (facing), Dad in back, GEN McAuliffe

Photo 5. GEN Peters, GEN Swift, GEN Gale, GEN McAuliffe, GEN Hoge, BG Guinness, GEN Doan, COL Read, GEN Booth, COL Cooper, COL Webb, GEN Partridge, GEN Pyman, GEN Hodes, GEN Cooke, GEN Lanham, COL Tutton.

